GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4872
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
SURVEY ON IODINE DEFICIENCY
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any ambitious sample survey scheme starting from foothills of Himalayas in regard to iodine deficiency all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consensus was achieved at the conference of Health Ministers of the States about the essentiality of iodine held on August, 2000; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government on that basis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Conducting IDD surveys is an important component of the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme (1962).So far 282 districts covering 25 States and 5 Union Territories have been surveyed and 241 districts have been found to be endemic for IDD/Goitre where the prevalence is more than 10%.

(c): The need to consume iodated salt to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders was emphasized by almost all the States.

(d): In order to popularise the consumption of Iodated Salt, Government has intensified Information, Education and Communication activities through the Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Advertisement & Visual Publicity, Doordarshan & the All India Radio.Besides, financial assistance to States/UTs for Health Education and Publicity is also being provided.